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**Local Community Planning**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report updates the CPP on the current position of the Bute and Cowal Local Community Planning pilot and the implications of the community engagement element of the Fairer Scotland Fund.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** Use the experience of the local Area Community Planning group and the evaluation of the pilot project to consider further ways to develop.
- 2.2** Use the community profiles from the National Park, and link with the Community Development Trust Development Workers.
- 2.3** Consider the existing local structures of Area Development Groups in Dunoon and Bute, with their successful community representation, as a model for expanding community participation on Community Planning.
- 2.4** To develop a plan for the development of local community planning, led by Community Learning and Regeneration and building on the experiences of the Community Representatives and the National Park Community Futures model.
- 2.5** To deliver two local community planning events for Bute and Cowal

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1** The establishment of Area Development Groups in the areas of multiple deprivation in Dunoon and Bute have enabled extensive community participation in the decision making and management of local projects. This model was highly commended in the HMle Report in 2007.
- 3.2** A pilot project to progress Community Planning locally in Cowal & Bute was established four years ago, and met with limited success. The Area Community Planning Group, with representatives from Housing, Police, Argyll & Bute Council and community representatives, has continued to meet.
- 3.3** The development of the National Park and its Community Development Trust has enabled extensive community consultation highlighting needs, processes and partnerships.
- 3.4** The Small Town and Rural (STAR) Development Group has carried out very positive community profiles in relation to the

National Park and it seems appropriate to use this process to progress Community Planning in Cowal and Bute.

- 3.5** The development of the Fairer Argyll and Bute plan (FAB) involves an element of supporting communities to participate in community planning. This has given CL&R the direction to refocus some of their work to support and develop local community planning using appropriate community development models.

**3.6**

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1** Community Planning at a local level may happen under a number of different guises. Whether it is through the ADG's, the National Park or Development Trusts there is no doubt that communities have the desire to participate. Exploring the opportunities to develop local community planning is essential to ensure that the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership is engaging with its communities.

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